ARDOUR
魅力反射
7
COMICS
吳柔萱

ARDOUR

魅力反射 ⑦

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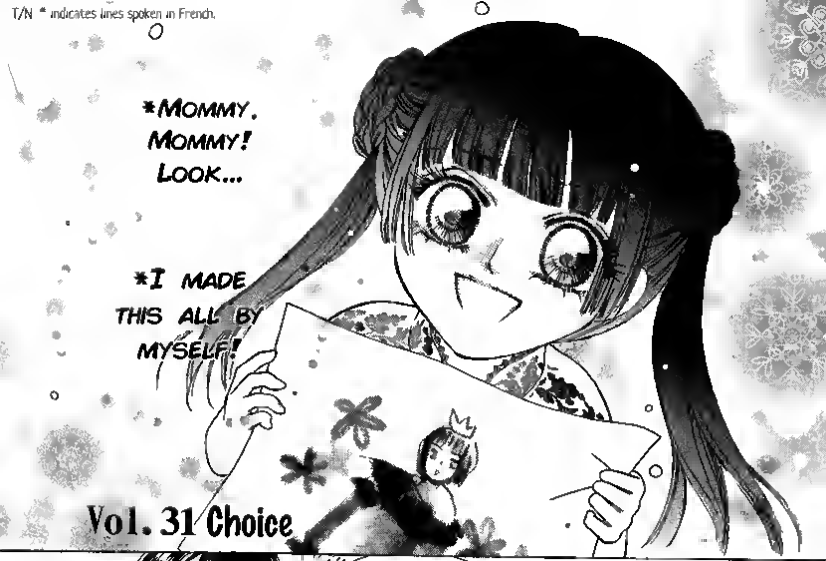
T/N * indicates lines spoken in French.



Vol. 31 Choice

*YES, I DO!
*YES, VERY WELL... SO YOU LIKE DRAWING THESE KINDS OF PICTURES?
I saw on Mom's face a joyful and gentle smile.
It was with a fashion design drawing that for the first time
*THEN FROM NOW ON, LET'S DRAW ONE EVERY DAY.
If it is to make Mommy happy-
*OKAY!
*THE PATTERN OF THIS DRESS... YOU REALLY DREW IT YOURSELF?
*YES, I DID, MOMMY! DID I DRAW IT WELL?

I have drawn so many patterns and designs...
This dress... It's from the first design I ever made
but, even now, it's still incomplete
I keep mending it, changing the designs and patterns over and over again.
but! I still can't make it look like the dress I have in mind.

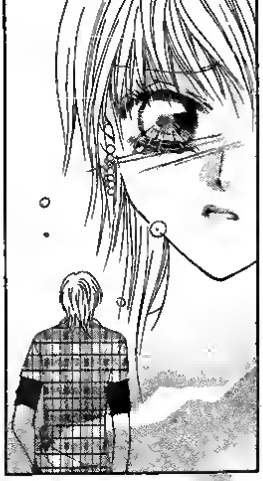
When I turned thirteen,
Mom stopped praising any of my designs and never did so ever again.
DAD! YOU'RE BACK!
XIAO YI? WHY ARE YOU STILL AWAKE?
UMM...
Click
DAD... I...
SO YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT, HUH.
HAVE YOU MADE YOUR DECISION?

I don't know if I'm making the right decision or not...
But I must move forward.
YES, I WILL GO TO FRANCE.
WHAAAT?!
TOMORROW?! YOU COULD AT LEAST DELAY IT FOR ONE OR TWO WEEKS!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED! BÉTHEMONT NEEDS TO GO BACK RIGHT AWAY!
NOW I NEED TO GO AND PACK MY LUGGAGE
XIAO YI, THIS IS YOUR DREAM. I KNOW IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT...

ARE YOU SURE YOU REALLY WANT TO GO?
BUT SINCE SHENG YE DOESN'T HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS, I WON'T SAY ANY-THING MORE ABOUT IT.
SHENG YE...
I'LL BE GOING TO FRANCE.

SHENG YE... WON'T YOU AT LEAST SAY SOMETHING TO ME?!
SHENG YE!
CLATTER

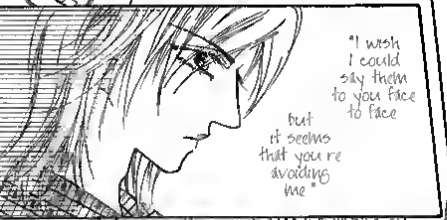
After that day,



Sheng Ye never looked me in the eyes ever again.

"Sheng Ye... There are so many things I want to tell you..."

He won't even talk to me.



"I'm happy that you're being considerate of me."
"If I'm really sorry about it, I must make this decision myself."
"It wouldn't have been right to ask you to do it for me."

"Is it really over for us...?"
"But just like this, does it mean that I have to give you up?"
TODAY, THAT NOISY GIRL'S GOING TO FRANCE AND WE CAN'T EVEN SEE HER OFF?
WE'VE GOT TWENTY MINUTES LEFT BEFORE THE HOST ARRIVES.
WE'RE NOT ORDINARY PEOPLE. THE PAPARAZZI FOLLOW US ALL THE TIME.
Chatter
Chatter
Delete all messages?
Beep
Delete.
Deleted

AAAHHH!!!
So annoying!
.....
YOU, THERE! HAVEN'T YOU BEEN BROODING FOR LONG ENOUGH ALREADY?!
BÉTHEMONT'S INTENTION IS SO OBVIOUS! XIAO YI'S STILL HESITATING, BUT YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE AN OPINION!
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO WILLFUL, BUT NOW YOU'RE ACTUALLY LETTING THAT GUY DO WHATEVER HE WANTS!
.....
FORGET IT! I'M GOING TO BURST WITH RAGE HERE IF I JUST WAIT FOR YOU TO SPEAK!

IF I HAD ASKED HER TO STAY, SHE WOULD'VE STAYED..
SHE... HOW COULD I NOT UNDERSTAND?
PEOPLE'S FEELINGS... SHE HAS ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD THEM BEST
SHE WAS ALWAYS HAPPIEST... EVERY TIME SHE MADE CLOTHES.
ME BEING WILLFUL WOULD'VE ONLY BEEN USING HER OWN WILLINGNESS!
BEING TOGETHER, WHETHER IT WAS FOR LOVE, CARE OR TRUST...
Chatter
Chatter
EVEN THE PEACE OF MIND I NEEDED MOST... SHE GAVE THEM ALL TO ME.
CLACK
CLACK
THE SILLY THING IS...

UNTIL NOW, SHE'S NEVER ASKED ME FOR ANYTHING...
Chatter
SHE ONLY HAD TO ASK, AND I WOULD'VE GIVEN HER ANYTHING,
BUT...
HER DREAM OF BECOMING A FASHION DESIGNER... I CAN'T GIVE HER THAT...
SOS
THEN GO SEE HER OFF!
TO PART LIKE THIS, YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THAT NOISY GIRL CARRY A BIG REGRET!

SHE'LL BE GONE FOR ONE OR TWO YEARS! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF SHE'LL RETURN AFTER THAT!
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST TELL HER YOU DON'T BLAME HER FOR LEAVING!
I LEAVE IT TO YOU
ARDOUR BE READY TO START THE SHOW!
YOU'VE GOT TWENTY MINUTES LEFT BEFORE HER PLANE TAKES OFF!
Dash

BEING HONEST IS NOT THAT EASY SHENG YE AND I ARE A LITTLE SIMILAR ON THAT
BECAUSE THE FEELINGS WE HAVE ARE SO STRONG, WE ALWAYS DO THINGS WE REGRET LATER ON
I HOPE HE MAKES IT IN TIME-
There's gonna scold me again
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? THAT'S JUST STUPID!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH WEI, DESPITE HOW YOU LOOK, YOU'VE BEEN THE MOST MATURE AMONG US THREE
Peep
And let the person we want to cherish slip away
Peep
THERE'S A ROADBLOCK AHEAD SO WE'LL BE STUCK IN TRAFFIC FOR A WHILE
Only twenty minutes left...
.....
KING

*ÉLIZÉ? WE NEED TO GET ON THE PLANE NOW...
*OH, I'M JUST TURNING MY PHONE OFF.
*LET'S GO.
*MM...
*BÉTHEMONT, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YOU...
*LET'S GO.

*Mom... Does she really want me to come back?
"*I won't welcome her back!"
*She...isn't against it.
*Really?
I've already gotten this far
I can't give up now!
*Mm...
They're currently unblocking cars at the entrance.
Here is fine!
Bam
Tap
Tap
Tap

HAA...
TRPORT
HAA
HAA
RUMBLE
When I catch up to her, what am I supposed to do?
Wish her well?
Just look at her for the last time?
That's not it...

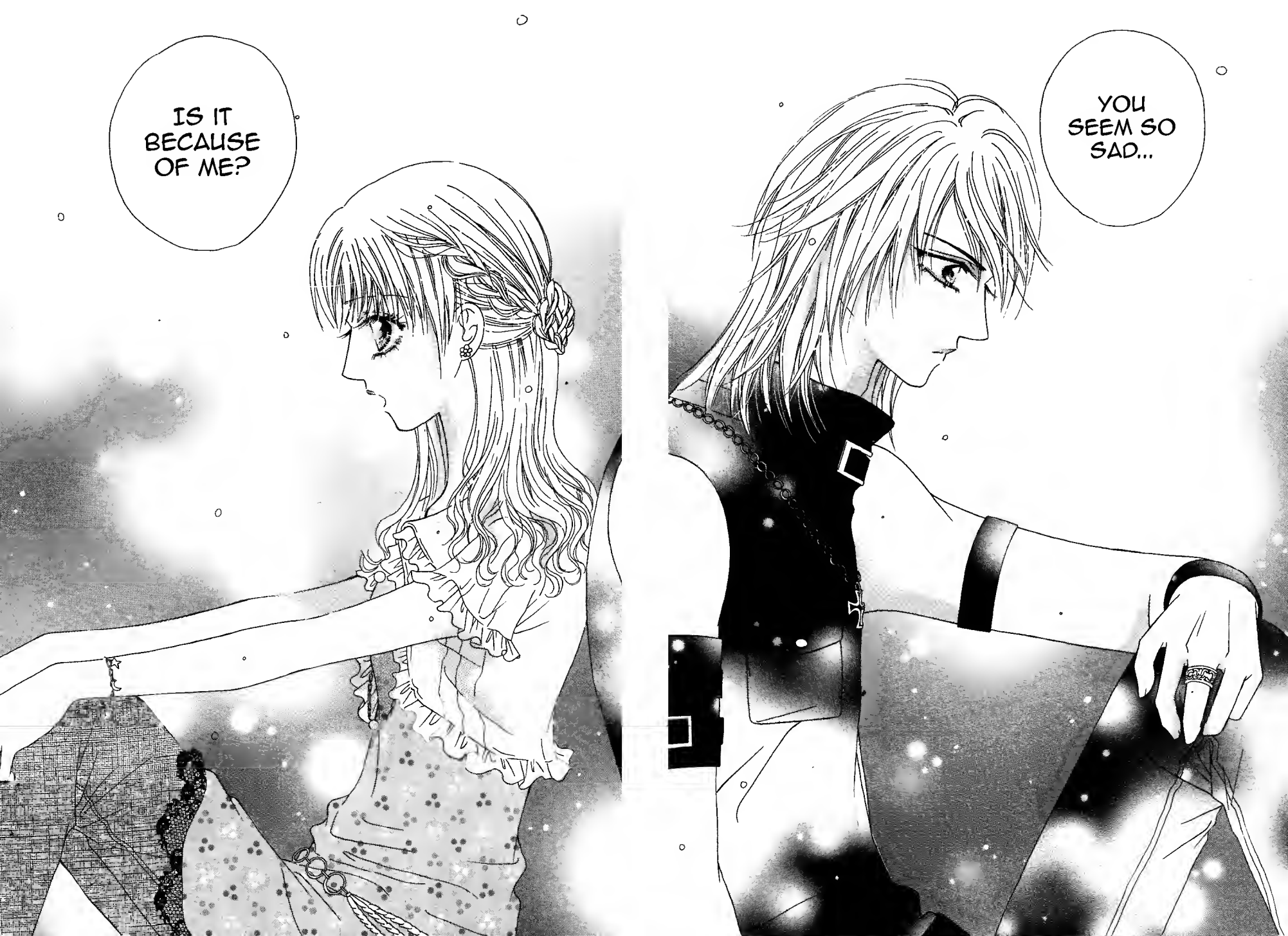
Roooaaar
RUMBLE
what I'm really longing for...
what I'm hoping for in my heart...

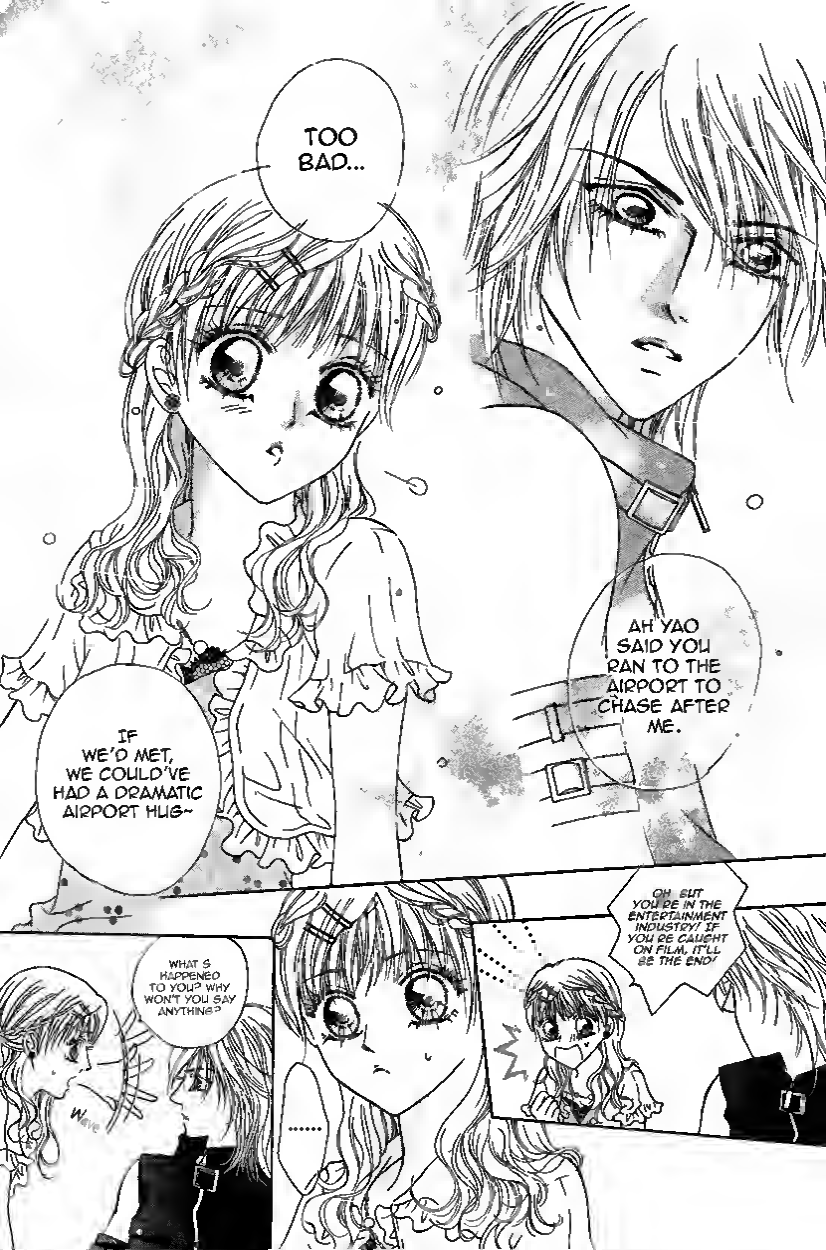
THE FLIGHT TO FRANCE JUST DEPARTED A MOMENT AGO.
What I truly wish for...is not that...
Can't you...?
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
Can't you...?
Chatter
Chatter
Can't you stay for me...?

In the end, I never got the chance to say it...
BANG
SHENG YE?
Bam
Swish
Tap
Tap

She left...
So soon...
The turmoil in my heart will dissolve
into numbness replacing all that I'm feeling
This is what I have chosen.
SHENG YE!
CLICK

Bam
Clack
TAP
TAP


IS IT BECAUSE OF ME?
YOU SEEM SO SAD...


TOO BAD...
IF WE'D MET, WE COULD'VE HAD A DRAMATIC AIRPORT HUG~
AH YAO SAID YOU RAN TO THE AIRPORT TO CHASE AFTER ME.
OH, BUT YOU'RE IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY! IF YOU'RE CAUGHT ON FILM, IT'LL BE THE END!
.....
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? WHY WON'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?
Wave

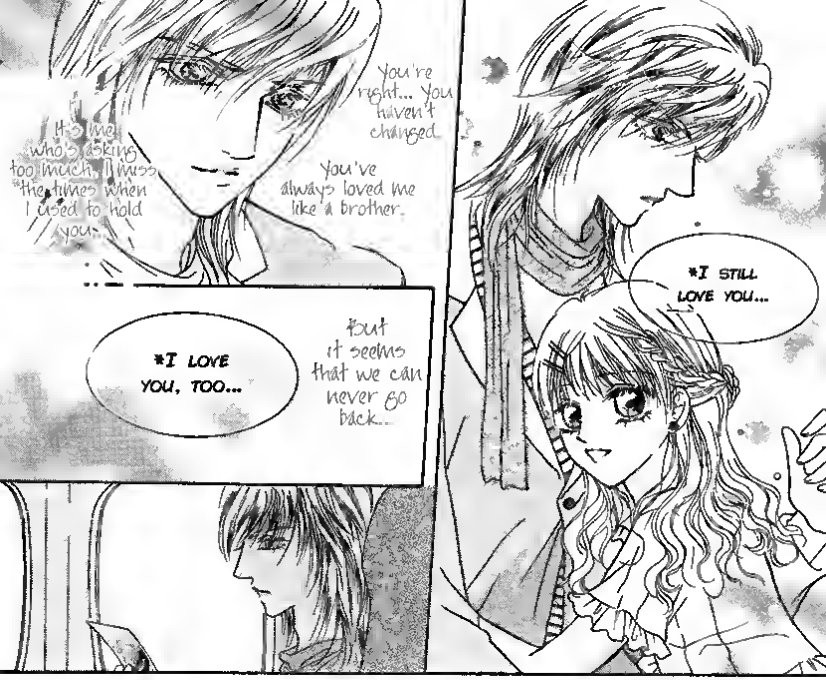
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE STILL MAD?
Before, he'd hardly show me his feelings.
But now, it's as if he's petting me just to confirm my existence.
SHENG YE... IT'S ME!
This person...
Shove
What?
Touch
Touch
Touch

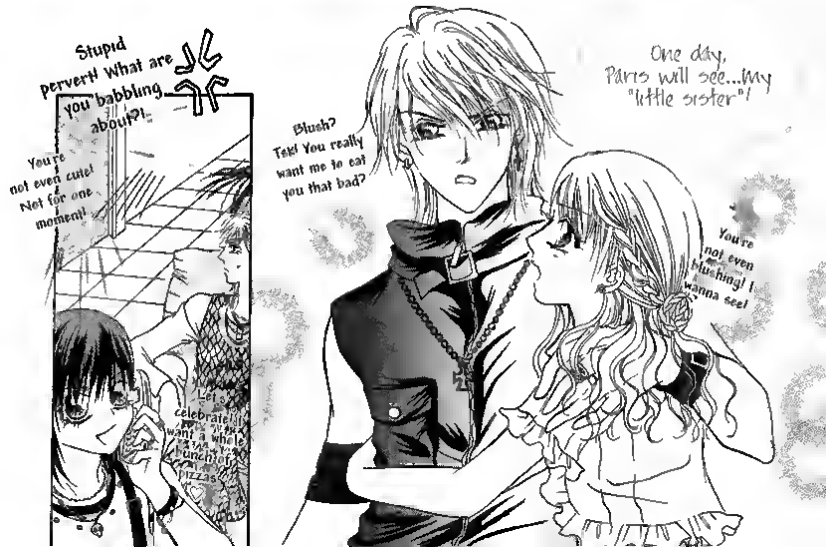
that it makes my heart ache...
STAY HERE...
While waiting for the flight, just before I turned my phone off I received a message.
That word with it came so many things we both could never say
His heavy breath and his face— It all seems so sad.
The message contained just one word "Yi".
I read it over and over again
His movements... They seem so helpless and fragile
I DIDN'T GO. I STAYED...

"Stay here." I know those are the words he really meant to tell me.
How could I just abandon him like that and leave?
I STAYED. ARE YOU HAPPY?
HMPH!
Ba-thump
Ba-thump
THEN WHY IS IT THAT YOUR HEART IS BEATING FASTER AND FASTER?
Ba-thump
BE QUIET!
Ba-thump
Thus cold, difficult and ruthless man
would never show his true feelings to me...
But the sound of his heartbeat betrays the happiness I know he really feels deep inside.
Ba-thump
Ba-thump Ba-thump

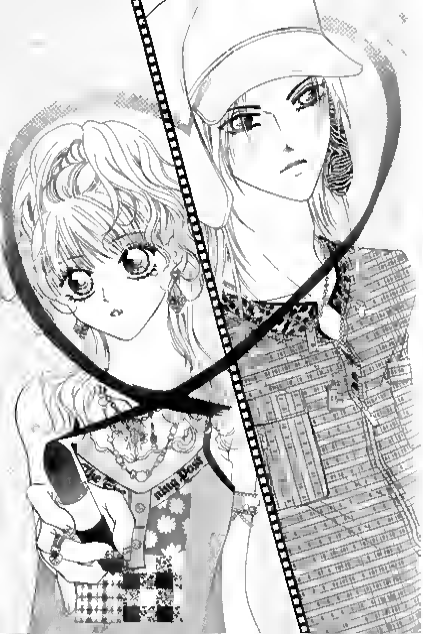
*COFFEE OR JUICE?
*JUICE, PLEASE!
THIS PICTURE S SO BEAUTIFUL! THAT CHILD.. IS SHE YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
*NO! SHE'S MY BABY LOVER.
*O-OH...
Though I don't usually reject chances with beautiful women, I'm really in the mood right now.
Speaking in Chinese
He can't be- He's such a handsome
That foreigner's such a pedophile
.....
*SHE HAS NEVER TOLD ME SHE WANTS ME TO.
*IT'S ONLY EVER BEEN DAD WHO BRINGS HER THE LETTERS I WRITE FOR HER..
"*MOM REALLY DOESN'T WANT ME TO! GO BACK, RIGHT?"

*Now I understand what Dad meant. The process of learning is very important.
If I just go to Paris now, it wouldn't be because of my own strength.
*You shouldn't let it affect your decision!
*I know. Dad said so when I told him I'd go to France.
It's just that now, I'm not so sure.
*To get myself accepted in schools abroad is also a test in itself.
If I just do this now, I don't think I'll be able to continue when things get difficult in the future.
*Right now, I have too many reasons for staying.
*I decided to do this so that others would acknowledge my strength.
*But I haven't changed! Béthemont!
*How do I say this... I—think you've grown up! You've changed.
*But for Mom, I'm still the same child as before.


It's me who's asking too much. I miss the times when I used to hold you...
You're right... You haven't changed.
You've always loved me like a brother.
*I LOVE YOU, TOO...
*But it seems that we can never go back...
*I STILL LOVE YOU...


Stupid pervert! What are you babbling about?!
You're not even cute! Not for one moment!
Let's celebrate! I want a whole lotta lunch! Pizza's on me!
Yay!
One day, Paris will see...my "little sister"!
Blush? Tsk! You really want me to eat you that bad?
You're not even blushing! I wanna see!

STOP AT THAT BOOKSHOP, PLEASE!
TAXI
Chatter
Chatter
ARDOUR'S SHENG YE?
SHENG YE?
boss
Peep
Peep



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